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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES ON ITS SECOND SESSION HELD IN DAKAR FROM 30 NOVEMBER TO 11 DECEMBER 1998

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I. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Welcoming ceremony

1. On 30 November 1998, H.E. Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, opened the welcoming ceremony and made a statement.

2. Statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, who also conveyed a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and by the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention.

3. Summaries of the statements made during the welcoming ceremony are to be found in annex I.

B. Opening of the session

4. The second session of the Conference of the Parties, convened pursuant to article 22 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, was opened in Dakar, Senegal, on 30 November 1998, by the representative of the President of the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

C. Election of the President
(Agenda item 1)

5. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 November, the Conference elected Mr. Souty Touré, Minister for the Environment and Protection of Nature of the Republic of Senegal, as President by acclamation.

6. At the same meeting, the President made a statement.

D. Opening and general statements

7. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 30 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat made a statement.

8. At the same meeting, the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification made a statement.

9. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Indonesia (on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77), Austria (on behalf of the States members of the European Union), Canada (also on behalf of Australia, Iceland, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America) and Ecuador (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group).

10. The representative of Third World Environment and Development (ENDA-TM) also made a statement on behalf of the community of non-governmental organizations.

11. At the 2nd plenary meeting, statements were made by the Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) and the representative of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: League of Arab States, Intergovernmental Authority on Development. Statements were made by the representatives of the World Meteorological Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme also made a statement.

12. At the 5th plenary meeting, on 7 December, the Vice-President of the World Bank, Mr. Ian Johnson, made a statement.

13. Summaries of the opening and general statements referred to in paragraphs 7-12 are to be found in annex II.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Adoption of the agenda
(Agenda item 3)

14. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 30 November, following statements by the representative of Austria (on behalf of the States members of the European Union) and Benin (on behalf of the African Group), the Conference adopted its agenda as contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/1 and Corr.1.

B. Election of officers other than the President
(Agenda item 2)

15. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 November, the Conference heard statements by the chairmen of the regional groups, who put forward candidates for the posts of Vice-President of the Conference and for the post of Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology.

16. At the same meeting, the Conference elected Mr. Mohammad Reza H.K. Jabbari (Islamic Republic of Iran) as Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology at its second session, who served ex officio as a member of the Bureau of the second session.

17. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 1 December, the representative of Benin stated on behalf of the African Group that, Africa being host continent of the second session of the Conference of the Parties, it wished to show understanding and flexibility with respect to that group's representation on the Bureau. Accordingly, the African Group was prepared to conform to the consensus by claiming only two members for the Bureau of the second session, on the understanding that it intends to claim three members in a Bureau of 11 members for the third and subsequent sessions.

18. At the same meeting, the Conference then elected by acclamation the following officers to serve on its Bureau for the second session in addition to the President and Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology:

Vice-Presidents:

Mr. John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda)
Ms. María Julia Alsogaray (Argentina)
Mr. Jafarov Ogtay (Azerbaijan)
Mr. Marc Gedopt (Belgium)
Mr. Olivier Jalbert (Canada)
Mr. Abdelmajid Khabour (Jordan)
Mr. Ali Saad Altokhais (Saudi Arabia)
Mr. Hatem Ben Salem (Tunisia)

Vice-President-cum-Rapporteur:

Mr. Samvel Baloyan (Armenia)

C. Organization of work, including the establishment of a Committee of the Whole (Agenda item 3)

19. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 November, the Conference approved the proposed organization of work for the session, as contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/1, annex II, and Corr.1.

Establishment of the Committee of the Whole

20. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 November, the Conference decided to establish a Committee of the Whole at its second session to consider outstanding issues for adoption by the Conference.

21. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 1 December, upon the proposal of the President, the Conference designated Mr. Marc Gedopt (Belgium) as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

D. Committee on Science and Technology

22. The Committee on Science and Technology was convened under the chairmanship of Mr. Mohammad Reza H.K. Jabbari (Islamic Republic of Iran). The Committee held seven meetings, from 1 to 4 December 1998.

23. The Committee had before it the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of vice-chairpersons.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Benchmarks and indicators.
5. Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies.

6. Report on the work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology.
7. Traditional knowledge.
8. Future work programme of the Committee.
9. Roster of independent experts.
10. Creation, if necessary, of an ad hoc panel or panels.
11. Other matters.
12. Report of the session.

24. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 December, the Committee elected the following vice-chairpersons by acclamation 1/: Mr. Samuel Mutiso (Kenya), Mr. Guido Soto (Chile) and Ms. Linda Brown (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

25. The Committee on Science and Technology made a number of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, which took action on them at its 5th, 10th and 12th meetings, on 7, 10 and 11 December (see paragraphs 48-51).

E. Admission of organizations as observers
(Agenda item 5)

Observer status for intergovernmental organizations

26. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 1 December, the Conference decided to accord observer status to the intergovernmental organizations listed in document ICCD/COP(2)/12, annex I.

27. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 4 December, the Conference decided to accord observer status to the intergovernmental organizations listed in document ICCD/COP(2)/12/Add.1, annex I (namely the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute).

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

28. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 1 December, the Conference also decided to accredit the non-governmental organizations listed in document ICCD/COP(2)/12, annex III.

F. Attendance

29. The second session of the Conference of the Parties was attended by representatives of the following 113 Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:

Algeria
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Bolivia
Botswana
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China
Comoros
Cook Islands

Costa Rica
Cuba
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Eritrea
Ethiopia
European Community
Fiji
Finland
France
Gambia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Honduras
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lesotho
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mexico
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
Niger
Nigeria
Niue
Norway
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Portugal
Romania
Saint Lucia
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
South Africa
Spain
Sudan
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Tajikistan
Togo
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Uganda
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
Uzbekistan
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

30. The session was also attended by observers from the following 13 States not Parties to the Convention:

Australia
Czech Republic
Holy See
Japan
Nauru
Philippines
Poland
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Thailand
Tuvalu
United States of America

31. The following United Nations offices and programmes were represented:

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
United Nations University (UNU)
World Food Programme (WFP)

32. The following specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Global Environment Facility (GEF)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
International Labour Organization (ILO)
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
World Bank
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

G. Documentation

33. The documents before the Conference of the Parties at its second session are listed in annex VII below.

III. SPECIAL SEGMENT ON CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION

34. A list of speakers at the special segment on ways and means by which the Conference of the Parties could promote the timely and effective implementation of the Convention is to be found in annex III.

35. The President's summary regarding the special segment is to be found in annex IV.

IV. DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

A. Decisions taken directly in the Plenary

36. At its 10th meeting, on 10 December, the Conference took the following decision:

24/COP.2 Date and venue of the third session of the Conference of the Parties

37. At its 12th meeting, on 11 December, the Conference took the following decision:

23/COP.2 Report on the Round Table of Parliamentarians

The Declaration referred to in decision 23/COP.2 is attached as annex V to this report.

B. Decision taken on the recommendation of the Bureau

38. At its 12th meeting, on 11 December, the Conference took the following decision on the recommendation of the Bureau:

25/COP.2 Credentials of representatives of Parties to the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (ICCD/COP(2)/13) 2/

C. Decisions taken on the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole

39. At its 12th meeting, on 11 December, the Conference took the following decisions on the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole:

1/COP.2 Ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties
2/COP.2 Programme of work for the Conference of the Parties
3/COP.2 Administrative and support arrangements for the secretariat, including interim arrangements
4/COP.2 Agreement concerning the headquarters of the permanent secretariat of the Convention
5/COP.2 Procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation
6/COP.2 Adjustment to the Convention budget and programme for 1999
7/COP.2 Medium-term strategy of the secretariat
8/COP.2 Collaboration with other conventions
9/COP.2 Regional implementation annexes and interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation
10/COP.2 Review of the implementation of the Convention
11/COP.2 Regional cooperation between countries of eastern and central Europe
18/COP.2 Global Mechanism
19/COP.2 Memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the International Fund for Agricultural Development regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism
20/COP.2 Consideration of rules 22 and 31 of the rules of procedure
21/COP.2 Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure
22/COP.2 Resolution of questions; annexes on arbitration and conciliation procedures

40. At the 12th meeting, on 11 December, the following statements were made.

41. With respect to decision 3/COP.2, the United States of America made a statement explaining why it could not support paragraph 3 of that decision. It stated that: (a) as a matter of principle, conference servicing costs should not be borne by the United Nations regular budget, but rather by the Parties to the Convention; (b) the United States Congress was considering withholding its proportionate share of conference servicing costs for all conventions funded from the United Nations regular budget; (c) the decision on the 1999 budget contained a provision (6/COP.2, para. 12) acceptable to the United States of America relating to future conferences, whose wording was similar to a provision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its fourth session.

42. With respect to decision 4/COP.2, Germany made the following statement:

> "On behalf of the German delegation I would like to say that we are particularly happy that the headquarters agreement could be signed in due course before the second session of the Conference of the Parties.
>
> We are pleased to report that the fulfilment of the formal requirements on our side, which are needed to enable the Agreement to enter into force, will, most likely, be achieved by early 1999.
>
> We are also delighted to state before the Second Conference of the Parties that, following the offer of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Agreement provides for the equal treatment of the Permanent Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Permanent Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification."

43. With respect to decision 7/COP.2, Haiti, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC), made the following statement:

> "The GRULAC considers it very necessary for the medium-term strategy of the secretariat to be approved in order to allow the secretariat to fulfil its mandate in a straightforward and efficient manner."

44. Also with respect to decision 7/COP.2, Benin, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, stated that the Group understood that the compendium referred to in paragraph 2 of the decision would include document ICCD/COP(2)/6.

45. With respect to decision 9/COP.2, Austria, on behalf of the European Union and its member States, made the following statement:

> "We appreciate the efforts undertaken by parties of the regional annexes in intensifying their cooperation in the implementation of the Convention. As we have heard, some regions have undertaken to facilitate their cooperation through the establishment of regional coordination units co-located with the UNEP regional office in Mexico and the African Development Bank in Abidjan. The COP has taken useful further steps to strengthen regional cooperation, in particular through

this decision. However, it is our firm position that the facilitating role of the Executive Secretary must not lead to the creation of new formal Convention structures."

46. Also with respect to decision 9/COP.2, Haiti, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC), made the following statement:

"The GRULAC requests the secretariat to pursue and reinforce its actions in support of national, subregional and regional activities in Latin America and the Caribbean in the struggle against desertification and the effects of drought."

47. With respect to decision 19/COP.2, the following statement was made by Canada on behalf of the States members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development:

"... (W)e are naturally disappointed that it was not possible to adopt the MOU itself at this session. We were, as you know, fully content with the substance of the instrument developed for our consideration by the Secretariat and IFAD, both of which we would like to commend most sincerely for their efforts. Some of the language in the MOU in our opinion needs to be modified for purely technical reasons. The changes fall into three categories: First, all the references to 'agreement' and 'agree' should become 'MOU' and 'understand'; second, 'shall' should become 'will'; and third 'entry into force' should become 'entry into operation'. With these technical changes the MOU would be perfectly correct, both in its form and its substance. We would like the secretariat and IFAD, when continuing their consultations on the text of the MOU, as just decided by the Conference of the Parties, to take these points on board. We rest assured that even without the formal adoption of this MOU, the GM can continue to operate efficiently."

D. Decisions taken on the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology

48. At its 5th meeting, on 7 December, the Conference took the following decisions on the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology:

13/COP.2	Roster of independent experts
15/COP.2	Other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology
16/COP.2	Benchmarks and indicators
17/COP.2	Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies

49. At its 10th meeting, on 10 December, the Conference took the following decision on the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology:

14/COP.2	Traditional knowledge

50. At its 12th meeting, on 11 December, the Conference took the following decision on the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology:

12/COP.2	Work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology

51. In accordance with decision 12/COP.2, on the recommendation of the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, the Conference decided at its 12th meeting, on 11 December, to appoint the following 10 experts to comprise an ad hoc group on traditional knowledge:

Surname	Name	Gender	Discipline
BOMBA	Jean-Claude	M	Climatology
HOFFMAN	Michael Tim	M	Botany, ecology/ecosystems
NARAIN	Sunita	F	Natural resources management
OSMAN SAAKA	Samuel	M	Environment
PHILIP	Christiaan Rey	M	Rural development and regional planning
SHATANAWI	Mohammed	M	Hydrology
TORRES GUEVARA	Juan	M	Agricultural sciences, Biodiversity
UPQUIZA	Maria	F	Agricultural sciences, Environment
VARTEVANIAN	Ashot	M	Agriculture
WACKER	Corinne	F	Anthropology and sociology

and further decided to designate Mr. Jean-Claude Bomba of the Central African Republic as its coordinator.

E. Programme and budget: review of the situation regarding extrabudgetary funds in 1998 (Agenda item 6 (c) (iii))

52. At its 12th plenary meeting, on 11 December, the Conference took note of the report of the secretariat 3/ on extrabudgetary funds in 1998.

F. Resolutions

53. At its 12th plenary meeting, on 11 December, the Conference unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

Resolution 1/COP.2	Solidarity with Central America
Resolution 2/COP.2	Expression of thanks to the people and Government of Senegal

V. CONCLUSION OF THE SESSION

A. Adoption of the report on credentials

54. At its 12th plenary meeting, on 11 December, the Conference, having considered the report on credentials of the Bureau of the second session of the Conference (ICCD/COP(2)/13) and the recommendation contained therein, approved the report on credentials, as orally amended. It was subsequently ascertained by the secretariat that the report contained in ICCD/COP(2)/13 did not fully reflect the report of the Bureau in that 10 names had been

inadvertently omitted during the processing of the document. Accordingly a revised document was issued (ICCD/COP(2)/13/Rev.1), adding the names of Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia and Spain to paragraph 6 of the report, in addition to those of Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

B. Date and venue of the third session of the Conference of the Parties

55. At its 10th plenary meeting, on 10 December, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision 24/COP.2 on the date and venue of the third session of the Conference of the Parties, the text of which is contained in Part Two, section I, of this report.

C. Adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session

56. At its 12th plenary meeting, on 11 December, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft report on its second session (ICCD/COP(2)/L.29) authorizing the Rapporteur, with the assistance of the secretariat, to complete the report, as appropriate.

D. Closure of the session

57. Statements made at the closing ceremony are summarized in annex VI.

58. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Senegal, H.E. Mr. Mamadou Lamine Loum, made a statement and declared closed the second session of the Conference of the Parties.

Notes

1/ The post of one vice-chairperson remained vacant.

2/ See also ICCD/COP(2)/13/Rev.1.

3/ ICCD/COP(2)/3 and Add.1.

Annex I

SUMMARIES OF STATEMENTS MADE AT THE WELCOMING CEREMONY

1. At the first plenary meeting of the COP 2 on 30 November 1998, Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary of the CCD secretariat, thanked Senegal for hosting the COP 2 and for playing a leading role in the combat against desertification at the regional, international as well as the national levels.

2. He recalled that the Convention does not provide solutions, but a new tool to improve life conditions in arid, semi-arid, and sub-humid areas while preserving natural resources. It offers an innovative instrument to break the circle of poverty and desertification, and to create new hope in affected populations in the framework of sustainable development. While land degradation, water scarcity and food insecurity still represent major constraints for affected countries, the numerous initiatives taken in the framework of the UNCCD allow for some optimism. International cooperation, as well as the prompt elaboration of national, subregional and regional action programmes needs to be further enhanced and the secretariat remains at the disposal of all Parties to facilitate this urgent process.

3. After recalling the 145 ratifications received to date, he illustrated the main activities undertaken in the affected regions. He then stressed that the COP 2 would start the discussion on the process of elaboration and implementation of action programmes at the national, subregional and regional levels, including on the role of national focal points, coordination mechanisms, stakeholders and affected populations at all levels. After two years from the entry into force of the CCD, many observers are now expecting to see it become reality in the field.

4. A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations was conveyed to the Conference by Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. He stressed that this was the largest United Nations meeting ever held in Senegal, and that it was particularly appropriate to have it in Africa, which has played a leading role towards the creation of the Convention. He highlighted that the Convention has pre-eminently a development focus, and addresses the issue of poverty that affects over one billion people around the world, the importance of a participatory approach and of international partnership among affected countries, and countries that are in a position to provide assistance and support. The Convention contains in particular three elements which are fully in accordance with the principles of the Rio Summit: the link between environment and development, the call for strong partnership between developing and developed countries, and the importance of interrelations among different sectors and processes (poverty, climate change, etc.) in a unitarian framework. For these reasons, he was particularly satisfied to state the success of the CCD process, but recalled the importance of strengthening coordination and international cooperation.

5. H.E. Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of Senegal, welcomed all participants and thanked the Conference for choosing Senegal as the host country for its

second session. He recalled how severely Senegal and the Sahel have been hit by desertification, and how closely this process is linked to poverty, migrations and underdevelopment at the global level. In Africa, the phenomenon is assuming particularly alarming dimensions.

6. He stressed the need to seek for adequate responses to the demand for better living conditions from affected populations. Traditional knowledge has provided good answers in the past, but is no longer sufficient given the growing complexity of the problem. He highlighted the importance of international awareness and support for affected countries. He recalled the United Nations role and engagement, as well as initiatives at the regional and national levels, such as the creation of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) out of the tragedy of the years 1969-1974, and the Senegalese engagement in establishing structures and programmes to focus policy priorities towards addressing desertification. It is now necessary to move to an effective operational phase. In particular, three elements should be taken into account: the need to coordinate activities under the three global Conventions; the need for adequate financial resources, with particular regard to the formula for debt conversion against nature conservation; and the need to define the role and operational procedures of the Global Mechanism.

Annex II

SUMMARIES OF OPENING AND GENERAL STATEMENTS

1. Ambassador Franchetti Pardo, on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy, Mr. Lamberto Dini, reported to the Conference on the results of the last meeting of the Bureau, and congratulated Senegal for the organization of the second session of the COP.

2. The Minister for the Environment and Protection of Nature of Senegal, Mr. Souty Touré, thanked the Conference for electing him President of the session and stressed the importance of the Convention in the Senegalese approach to development issues. Senegal has tackled desertification since the 1960s, but at the beginning of the twenty-first century the process of land degradation in all regions of the world raises increasing concern. The magnitude of the degradation of natural resources poses serious constraints on development perspectives and calls for a new approach, as contained in the Convention. The full partnership of all involved stakeholders at the local and international levels; the need for integrated planning that harmonizes sectoral policies; the enhancement of international cooperation - these are the constructive elements contained in the Convention, that make it possible to hope for a better future.

3. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the representative of Indonesia expressed hope for a fruitful discussion on concrete initiatives in affected countries, and encouraged all Parties to fully support the operationalization and implementation of the CCD. Regional coordination units and stronger international partnership should be enhanced. He expressed concern that developed countries lack enthusiasm in supporting affected countries in implementing the CCD, and wished for the Global Mechanism to start operating as soon as possible. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) should also develop new programmes focusing on mitigation of desertification effects.

4. On behalf of the European Union, the representative of Austria expressed the hope that the COP 2 offers the occasion for a fruitful dialogue on the implementation of the CCD. Europe believes in the importance of the Convention and of international cooperation, and will continue to support it in the post Lomé framework. He stressed the need to avoid duplications and to establish coordination tools such as the chef-de-file, as well as to enhance the bottom-up, participatory approach and synergies among the global conventions. He encouraged the COP 2 to shape the mandate of the CCD, especially taking into account the distinct role of the Global Mechanism. Also, he wished for the Committee on Science and Technology to develop a more focused agenda.

5. On behalf of the JUSSCANZ group, the representative of Canada welcomed the opening of the COP 2 and gave an assurance of the group's full collaboration in a constructive process.

6. On behalf of GRULAC, the representative of Ecuador highlighted the interest expressed by the GRULAC region in the CCD by recalling that more than 90 per cent of its members have already ratified the Convention. A regional action programme has been elaborated, while a regional coordination unit and a

regional information network are already established. Furthermore, great interest is taken in the issues related to indicators and traditional knowledge, while concern was expressed at the unequal distribution of financial resources among regions. He also expressed the hope that GRULAC would host COP 3.

7. On behalf of the community of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accredited to the COP 2, the representative of ENDA informed of the preparatory session held by the NGOs before the opening of the COP 2. The NGOs expressed appreciation of the initiative to have two half-days of NGO-government dialogue during the Conference, as a concrete sign of the countries' intention to turn into reality the partnership with civil society in the implementation of the CCD. They indicated that the sessions would be devoted to the role of civil society and of traditional knowledge as concrete tools in combating desertification, rather than a theoretical exercise. The NGOs expressed concern with the delay in launching the Global Mechanism, and highlighted the need to extend the GEF focal areas also to land degradation. They proposed the establishment of an NGO consultative committee at the GEF, as well as regular NGO meetings between COP sessions to be coordinated by the CCD secretariat.

8. As at the first session of the COP, the Ramsar Secretariat confirmed its intention to collaborate with the CCD secretariat to maintain and restore habitats that are essential to secure a sound resource base for people's development and well-being. Some of the most important wetlands are in the arid zone, where there may be thousands and possibly hundreds of thousands of wetlands of different sizes. Furthermore, Parties to the Ramsar Convention are also Parties to the CCD. A memorandum of understanding is being discussed among the two secretariats.

9. The representative of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) stated that cooperation between the CCD and the CBD has been formalized through a memorandum of understanding. Arid zones are of great importance for conservation of biodiversity as they host 35 per cent of the human population, which puts great pressure on natural resources. The memorandum of understanding provides not only the general framework for cooperation but also concrete initiatives to support the implementation of the two conventions, as well as joint scientific activities and information management. The Convention on Biological Diversity approaches ecosystems through four work programmes addressing biodiversity in forests, agriculture, international waters and oceans and coastal areas. In particular, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its fourth session, established that ecosystems of arid and semi-arid zones, Mediterranean habitats, and savannahs will be at the core of the COP 5, to be held in Nairobi in the year 2000. A crucial aspect of cooperation among the two secretariats will be the possibility of new procedures to allow for more efficiency in the Parties' fulfilment of reporting obligations deriving from the conventions.

10. The Executive Secretary of the CCD highlighted the importance of collaboration among conventions and of further enhancing synergies.

11. The representative of the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) stated that ACSAD is one of the specialized organizations

working in the framework of the League of Arab States and is in charge of coordinating the implementation of the CCD. The most important measures taken include strengthening the scientific linkage between those concerned, enhancing research and elaboration and implementation of pilot projects. Priority is given to desertification control and to the possibility of applying techniques also to African countries. While solutions to the problems are possible, in many cases their implementation meets obstacles in the lack of sufficient financial resources and in some legislative, social and organizational factors.

12. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) stated that phenomena like the increase of the mean surface temperature of the earth and El Niño are just examples that indicate the role WMO can play in supporting the implementation of the CCD through its programmes and in particular the following activities: promotion at the regional and global levels of the collection, analysis and free exchange of information and data on meteorological, climatological and hydrological situations and processes; capacity-building and training; and promotion of the implementation of the "climate agenda" with other organizations. Special attention should be paid to the establishment of a mechanism for cooperation between the CCD, the CBD and the FCCC as well with the WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and to improving systematic meteorological and climatological data collection and exchange. Availability of adequate financial resources is fundamental.

13. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) recalled the interest and engagement of FAO in the combat against desertification which is closely related to the main mandate of FAO, namely, food security. In particular, FAO is engaged in two directions. Firstly, strengthening desertification-related activities within the organization's regular programme. Over 100 projects are currently being implemented in the drylands. Secondly, it has established cooperation agreements with the Italian Government, IFAD and UNEP. An agreement is also being finalized between the FAO and the CCD secretariat. Furthermore, the FAO is happy to contribute its long experience and collection of data to the CCD Parties.

14. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) stated that UNESCO is finalizing a memorandum of understanding with the CCD secretariat to enhance collaboration, particularly in the sectors of education, science and culture. Many of the current fields of activities of UNESCO have close links to desertification issues, for example its programme of training for African scientists, its network on biosphere reserves that includes some dryland areas, and its hydrological programme. Combating desertification is a multisectoral task that implies scientific as well as humanistic aspects.

15. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) stated that UNEP has a long history of engagement in desertification issues. In particular, UNEP is leading a consortium to undertake a preliminary survey of networks and institutions relevant to the implementation of the CCD. As one of the implementing agencies of the GEF, UNEP is providing support for action programmes to combat dryland degradation at the subregional and

regional levels, in particular in the GRULAC region and in the Russian Federation. It is engaged in identifying and promoting "best practices" and awareness-raising initiatives on the theme of land degradation. UNEP can further play a role in assessment and environmental reporting, gathering and exchange of scientific and technological information, facilitation of consultation processes, and the development of projects for GEF consideration.

16. The representative of the World Bank expressed his organization's concern with the problems of land degradation and land management because they are key issues in development perspectives. Desertification can only be tackled in the context of broader economic and social change. The World Bank believes that poverty can be tackled by taking into account local, regional and global environmental concerns. The World Bank invests over US$ 18 billion, of which US$ 1.8 billion goes to land degradation projects, and is collaborating with UNDP and UNEP as implementing agencies of the GEF to mobilize and channel financial resources within the GEF focal areas. Forty per cent of the World Bank projects are in Sub-Saharan Africa. It plans to enhance projects aiming at dryland management and at synergies and collaboration among agencies and institutions.

Annex III

LIST OF SPEAKERS AT THE SPECIAL SEGMENT

Mr. Souty Touré
Minister for the Environment and Protection of Nature of Senegal

Mr. Trenggono
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Indonesia to Senegal
(on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77)

Mr. Martin Bartenstein
Federal Minister for the Environment, Youth and Family Affairs of Austria
(on behalf of the States members of the European Union)

Mr. Valerio Calzolaio
Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of the Environment of Italy

Mr. José Antonio Pinto Monteiro
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Environment of Cape Verde

Mr. Abdul Hamid Al-Monajed
Minister of State for Environmental Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic

Mme Dominique Voynet
Minister for Land Management and the Environment of France

Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry
Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility

Mr. Seyed Hamid Kalantari
Deputy Minister for Jihad Sazandegi of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Ms. Ursula Eid
Deputy Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany

Mr. Rafe Pomerance
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific Affairs of the United States of America

Mr. Henri-Philippe Cart
Vice Director-General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Mr. John Westley
Vice-President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development

Mrs. Eimi Watanabe
Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Development Policy,
United Nations Development Programme

Mr. Rasmus Rasmusson
Ambassador, Global Convention Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden

Mr. Smail Benamara
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Algeria to Senegal

Mr. Jan Naerby
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Norway to Senegal

Mr. Jawahar Lal
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to Senegal

Mr. Guido Soto
Coordinator of the National Plan of Action Against Desertification of Chile

Mr. Seydou Oumarou
Executive Secretary of the National Council for Environment and Sustainable Development of Niger

Mr. Mohamed Ould Sidi Ahmed Lekhal
Minister of Rural Development and the Environment of Mauritania

Mr. Musa Mbenga
Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the Gambia (in his capacity as Minister Coordinator of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel)

Mr. Arefaine Berhe
Minister for Agriculture of Eritrea

Mr. Mohamed Ag Erlaf
Minister for the Environment of Mali

Mr. Miguel Eduardo Araujo Padilla
Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador

Mr. Adade Koffi Santy
Minister for the Environment and Forestry Production of Togo

Mr. Chbaatou Said
Minister in charge of Water Resources and Forests of Morocco

Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar
Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Mr. Anatoliy M. Ovchinnikov
Deputy Minister for Hydrometeorology of Uzbekistan

Mr. Samvel Baloyan
Deputy Minister for Nature Protection of Armenia

Mr. Murat Mussatayev
Vice-Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan

Mr. Enrique Alonso
Director-General, Ministry of the Environment of Spain

Mr. Madhav Prasad Ghimire
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Population and the Environment of Nepal

Mr. Athanassios Theodorakis
Deputy Director-General for Development at the European Community

Mrs. Xue Hanqin
Deputy Director-General, Department of International Law and Treaties, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China

Mr. Imorou Seidou
Director of the Cabinet, Ministry of the Environment, Habitat and Urban Affairs of Benin

Mr. R. Muyungi
Senior Environment Officer, Department of the Environment of the United Republic of Tanzania

Ms. Tsedale Waktola
Head of the Environmental Impact Studies and Control Department, Environmental Protection Authority of Ethiopia

Mr. David Johansson
Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland

Mr. Muhammad Saeed Khalid
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Pakistan to Senegal

Mr. Arthur Nelson
Chairman of the Select Committee on Infrastructure and Physical Development, Member of the Jamaican Parliament

Mr. Salif Diallo
Minister of State, Minister of Environment and Water of Burkina Faso

Mr. Poul Nielson
Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark

Mr. Mamoshebi Kabi
Minister for the Environment, Gender and Youth Affairs of Lesotho

Mr. Franklin Bett
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environmental Conservation of Kenya

Mr. Klaus Toepfer
Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

Mr. Cheikh Abdoul Kadre Cissokho
President of the National Assembly of Senegal and Chairman of the Parliamentary Round Table

Mr. J.L.T. Mothibamele
Assistant Minister for Agriculture of Botswana

Mr. Okan Uger
Deputy Under-Secretary, Ministry of the Environment of Turkey

Mr. Oo Phae Thann
Joint Secretary, National Commission for Environmental Affairs of Myanmar

Mr. Antonio V. Guerreiro
Director-General for Special Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil

Mr. Hatem Ben Salem
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Tunisia to Senegal

Mr. Octavio Perez Pardo
Director of the Conservation of the Soil, Department of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development of Argentina

Mr. Ali Saad Altokhais
Director General, Water Resources Development Department of Saudi Arabia

Mr. Victor Louro
Director-General, Ministry of Agriculture of Portugal (on behalf of the Annex IV countries)

Mr. Doron M. Grossman
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Israel to Senegal

Mr. Makhaya N.N.J. Mosia
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of South Africa to Senegal

Mr. Nikita F. Glazovsky
Chairman of the Council of the Ecological Foundation of the Russian Federation

Mr. David Turner
Head of the Environment Policy Department, Department of International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Mr. Seth Ratovoson
Secretary-General, Ministry of the Environment of Madagascar

Mr. Edward D. Singhatey
Secretary of State for Presidential Affairs and Natural Resources of the Gambia

Mr. Terry Coe
Minister for Agriculture of Niue

Mr. Harold E. Acemah
Director, Multilateral Organizations and Trade Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uganda

Mr. Mohamed Naguib
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Egypt to Senegal

Mr. S.M. Lutfullah
Joint Secretary, Ministry for the Environment and Forests of Bangladesh

Mr. R.O. Adewoye
Director-General, Chief Executive, Federal Environmental Protection Agency of Nigeria

Mr. Haroun Abakar
Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chad

Mr. Joao Da Costa Vintém
National Focal Point, Angola

Mr. Park Jayson
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Senegal

The Right Honorable Sir Toaripi Lauti
Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Tuvalu

Mr. Davaa Basandorj
State Secretary, Ministry of Nature and the Environment of Mongolia

Mr. J.O. Afrani
Director, Ministry of the Environment, Science and Technology of Ghana

Mr. M.D. Munemo
Director, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Environment and Tourism of Zimbabwe

Mr. Hadi Hammad
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to Senegal

Mr. René Gomez Garcia Palas
Director-General for Land and Watershed Management of Bolivia

Mrs. Lolita Hilario
National Focal Point for Desertification, Ministry of the Environment of Mozambique

Mr. Luis Garnica
Director for the Environment, National Institute for Natural Resources of Peru

Ms. Mathilda Miria-Tairea
Legal Counsel for the Ministry of Works, Energy and Physical Planning of the Cook Islands

Mr. Carlos Valarezo
Adviser, Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador

Mr. Jean Clément
Director, Forestry Resources Division, Forestry Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Mr. Lev Komlev
Senior Economic Affairs Officer of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Mr. El-Amin Dafallah
Minister for Agriculture and Forestry of the Sudan

Annex IV

PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS MADE DURING THE SPECIAL SEGMENT

1. Over a period of two days, the participants in the high-level segment outlined the contributions made by their countries and organizations towards the effective implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. The discussions were enhanced by the presence of a large number of ministers, senior governmental officials, representatives of specialized agencies and institutions in the United Nations system, interregional and regional organizations and other bodies.

2. The participants welcomed the efforts made by the secretariat to make the Convention a universal instrument and the actions undertaken to implement it.

3. Many delegations from the worst-affected regions described the progress made in their programmes of action at the national, subregional and regional levels. They cited the principal difficulties hampering the implementation of the Convention in those regions and appealed for the strengthening of cooperation with their principal development partners.

4. The participants also raised a number of issues which should be highlighted:

- The delay in the establishment of the Global Mechanism and the need to make it operational as rapidly as possible.

- Efforts to take greater account of the requirements for funding of desertification control activities by the Global Environment Facility.

- The lack of a body to monitor the implementation of the Convention. However, the participants welcomed the informal exchange held on national programmes of action, a forum which helped to clarify the state of progress in the implementation of the Convention.

- It was also suggested that provision should be made for a protocol for the implementation of the Convention containing quantifiable commitments to be submitted to the next session of the Conference of the Parties. This proposal was endorsed by a number of delegations.

- To take steps to make the year 2000 the starting point for the decade to combat desertification.

5. The States parties were also addressed by the President of the National Assembly of Senegal, who introduced to them the declaration adopted by the round table of parliamentarians concerning the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. The Conference took note of the declaration with satisfaction.

Annex V

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENTS

Regarding the process of implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

I. We, the Parliamentarians invited to meet in Dakar, Senegal, on 7 December 1998 by the Convention secretariat, the National Assembly of Senegal and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the context of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, declare that:

1. We are deeply alarmed by the impact of desertification which affects 3,600 million hectares, representing 70 per cent of the potential productive land in arid zones. The rapidity of this progression means that there is a loss of 6 million hectares annually. We are conscious of the gravity of the situation in different regions of the world as in Africa, a continent where deserts or arid zones constitute two thirds of the total land area and 73 per cent of the arid land is already seriously or moderately degraded; in Asia where around 1,400 million hectares are affected by desertification, which corresponds to 71 per cent of the arid land of the continent which is moderately or severely degraded; in Latin America, where nearly three quarters of the arid land is moderately or severely degraded and the Mediterranean, where almost two thirds of the arid land is severely degraded; the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, where 40 per cent to 80 per cent of the arid land is severely degraded;

2. It is intolerable that at the beginning of the twenty-first century nearly 1 billion men, women and children, are permanently threatened by desertification; that hundreds of millions of people suffer from a chronic shortage of basic necessities such as water; and that millions of "environmental refugees" are forced to abandon their native land to seek relief elsewhere;

3. We share fully the founding premise of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, according to which sustainable development cannot be attained unless:

(i) It is oriented towards people in protecting the interests of the affected populations and eradicates poverty;

(ii) It involves these populations fully in the decision-making process, in measures for the protection of the environment and in the struggle against desertification;

(iii) It includes the dimension of the fight against poverty.

4. We believe that desertification, poverty, famine, social and political disturbances, wars, migration and the displacement of populations, which have led many times to new and most serious degradation of the natural environment, are all interconnected;

5. We take note of the serious budgetary constraints of the poorest affected countries, which still have to devote a considerable proportion of their scant financial resources to debt repayment and servicing.

II. Affirming our total commitment, as Parliamentarians, to contribute fully to the implementation of the Convention, in countries that are Parties to the Convention:

6. We support where necessary the adoption or the strengthening of legislation concerning the fight against desertification and the preservation of the ecosystems in all the affected countries;

7. We subscribe to the promotion of policies and the strengthening of appropriate institutional frameworks for the favourable development of cooperation among the countries affected by desertification and their partners in development;

8. We support the strengthening of social, education and health policies through public awareness campaigns about the negative effects of desertification as well as the participation of youth and women in the development programmes;

9. We subscribe to the integration of the main provisions of the Convention in national policies for sustainable development;

10. We subscribe to the initiative that the year 2000 be the starting point of the decade to combat desertification;

11. We support fully the initiatives of agencies, donor countries and civil society to mobilize financial assistance for the promotion of sustainable development in poorest countries with fragile ecosystems, through the Convention's Global Mechanism.

III. We undertake to promote in our respective Parliaments:

12. The follow-up to implementation of the Convention, making full use of the mechanisms available in our Parliaments to monitor government action and thus ensure that the Convention is fully implemented;

13. The formulation of national legislation and its harmonization with the provisions of the Convention;

14. The inclusion of the combat against desertification in the overall agendas of our national Governments so as to make the combat a priority matter for our countries and also our regional and subregional organizations;

15. The formulation of national action programmes covering water management and applied agricultural research in the poorest countries affected by desertification and others as necessary, and their financing in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;

16. The adoption of practical measures to include environmental education, in particular the fight against desertification, in school curricula.

IV. We are deeply convinced of the need to undertake far-reaching action with the main priorities:

17. To promote forms of regional and subregional cooperation, favourable to improving relations between our relevant intergovernmental organizations;

18. To set up, at the local level, action programmes based on the reforestation and rehabilitation of land which involves all stakeholders in the field, in particular the education system and representatives of civil society, especially youth and women's associations;

19. To define action programmes involving international organizations, including United Nations agencies, donors, national institutions, elected representatives, NGOs, and the local population, in particular resource users, both men and women, to promote the objectives of the Convention;

20. As appropriate in the case of poorest affected countries to expand debt-for-nature swaps for land rehabilitation and reforestation.

V. We Parliamentarians address an urgent appeal:

21. To all relevant participants in civil society, such as financial institutions, personalities in the fields of finance, commerce, sport, the media and the arts, to support the mobilization of financial resources to support the fight against desertification which is under way in the developing countries most seriously affected by desertification and drought;

22. To academic institutions, the scientific community and research centres for their support in the various tasks of implementing the Convention in affected countries with particular regard to the needs of developing countries;

23. To the Inter-Parliamentary Union to give the widest publicity possible to this Declaration and, notably that it be transmitted to all national parliaments for their attention;

24. To the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to continue the actions taken up to this time to support the countries affected by desertification, and to take all necessary measures to make the present declaration universally known;

25. To the secretariats of the CCD and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to take follow-up action on the present meeting and organize similar meetings in conjunction with future conferences of the Parties.

Annex VI

SUMMARIES OF STATEMENTS MADE AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY

CCD secretariat

1. The Executive Secretary of the CCD secretariat thanked the host country for the organization of the Conference and confirmed the full commitment of the secretariat to accomplish its mandate and assist countries in the implementation of the Convention. He called for an increased mobilization of the international community to assist affected countries in the implementation of programmes that allow reaching priority goals such as food security, rural development, efficient water management, etc. He recalled the full involvement of non-governmental organizations, of the media and of Parliamentarians in supporting the Convention.

Indonesia

2. Partnership is the core element of the Convention negotiations. There is high expectation that the Global Mechanism will be able to fully operate in its main functions by COP 3, and it will be the countries' responsibility to enhance the necessary mobilization of funds and transfer of technology.

Austria

3. Dialogue has been a central element of these negotiations, both among delegations, in particular on the national action programme process, and between delegations and non-governmental organizations, and it represents the basis for real progress towards concrete results in affected countries at the national and local levels. The European Union confirms its commitment to support affected countries, and welcomes the initiative to launch the discussion on Annex V. Europe stresses the need to stick to the rules set by the text of the Convention as the basis for a cooperative atmosphere among countries, and encourages all countries to elaborate policies and priorities on the basis of the spirit of the CCD. As many initiatives are being implemented at the international level to combat desertification by a number of different actors, the European Union stresses the need to harmonize them and enhance synergies.

Armenia

4. Eastern Europe welcomes the launching of the process of elaboration of Annex V.

Canada

6. The JUSSCANZ countries express their concern that more work remains to be done, in particular concerning the medium-term strategy of the CCD secretariat, and welcomes the growing interest in the Convention. In particular, it welcomes a new member country and expects others to join soon.

Haiti

7. The Convention represents a fundamental tool of hope for GRULAC countries, which place hope in the full support of the international community for the prompt implementation of the CCD.

Islamic Republic of Iran

8. The speaker thanked the Senegalese Government and the Conference on behalf of the Asian Group.

Prime Minister of Senegal

9. The Prime Minister of Senegal, speaking on behalf of the President of Senegal, greeted the participants and highlighted the significance of holding the COP 2 in Africa, and in particular in Senegal, as a sign of the solidarity of the international community towards the continent which is most severely affected by drought and desertification. Desertification entails social and economic as well as environmental imbalances, and represents one of the major challenges ahead of the international community for which an adequate response needs to be mobilized.

Annex VII

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AT ITS SECOND SESSION

ICCD/COP(2)/1 and Corr.1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
ICCD/COP(2)/2	Programme and budget: adjustment to the Convention budget and programme for 1999
ICCD/COP(2)/3 and Add.1	Programme and budget: review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds in 1998
ICCD/COP(2)/4	Review of the report of the Global Mechanism on its activities, and the provision of guidance to it
ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1	Review of the report of the Global Mechanism on its activities, and the provision of guidance to it: draft memorandum of understanding with the International Fund for Agricultural Development on the Global Mechanism
ICCD/COP(2)/5	Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, including support to regional action programmes
ICCD/COP(2)/6	Medium-term strategy for the secretariat
ICCD/COP(2)/7	Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions
ICCD/COP(2)/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1	Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: headquarters agreement with the Government of Germany
ICCD/COP(2)/8/Add.2	Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: relocation of the Convention secretariat to Bonn and possible liaison arrangements
ICCD/COP(2)/9	Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: institutional linkage
ICCD/COP(2)/10	Consideration with a view to adopting, pursuant to article 27 of the Convention, procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to implementation
ICCD/COP(2)/11 and Add.1	Maintenance of the roster of experts

ICCD/COP(2)/12 and Add.1	Accreditation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, admission of observers
ICCD/COP(2)/13 and Rev.1	Credentials of delegations
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/1	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/2	Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3	Benchmarks and indicators
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3/Add.1	Benchmarks and indicators: report of the ad hoc panel
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/4	Report on the work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology
ICCD/COP(2)/CST/5	Synopsis of reports on traditional knowledge
ICCD/COP(2)/INF.1	Arrangements for the second session of the Conference of the Parties: preliminary information for participants
ICCD/COP(2)/INF.2	Programme and budget: review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds in 1998: summary report
ICCD/COP(2)/INF.3	Status of ratification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
ICCD/COP(2)/INF.4	Preliminary list of focal points
ICCD/COP(2)/CRP.1	Report on behalf of the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development
ICCD/COP(2)/CRP.2	Report of the current Chair of the Facilitation Committee
ICCD/COP(2)/CRP.3	Amendments to the draft decisions recommended by the Committee on Science and Technology for adoption by the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/COP(1)/11	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session, held in Rome from 29 September to 10 October 1997: Part One
ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1 and Corr.1	Report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session, held in Rome from 29 September to 10 October 1997: Part Two

ICCD/COP(2)/L.1	Roster of independent experts; other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology
ICCD/COP(2)/L.2	Comment and recommendation of the CST on the report of the ad hoc panel on benchmarks and indicators contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3/Add.1
ICCD/COP(2)/L.3 and Rev.1	Work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology
ICCD/COP(2)/L.4 and Rev.1-2	Traditional knowledge
ICCD/COP(2)/L.5	Programme and budget: programme of work for the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties: ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/COP(2)/L.6	Programme and budget: programme of work for the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/COP(2)/L.7	Solidarity with Central America
ICCD/COP(2)/L.8	Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, including support to regional programmes: procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation
ICCD/COP(2)/L.9	Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, including support to regional programme
ICCD/COP(2)/L.10 and Rev.1	Administrative and support arrangements for the secretariat, including interim arrangements
ICCD/COP(2)/L.11	Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: headquarters agreement with the Government of Germany
ICCD/COP(2)/L.12 and Rev.1	Review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, including support to regional implementation: regional implementation annexes and interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation
ICCD/COP(2)/L.13	Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies

ICCD/COP(2)/L.14	Procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation
ICCD/COP(2)/L.15	Questions concerning implementation and arbitration
ICCD/COP(2)/L.16	Cooperation with other conventions and international bodies
ICCD/COP(2)/L.17 and Rev.1	Agreement concerning the headquarters of the permanent secretariat of the Convention
ICCD/COP(2)/L.18	Global Mechanism
ICCD/COP(2)/L.19	Memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the International Fund for Agricultural Development regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism
ICCD/COP(2)/L.20	Collaboration with other conventions
ICCD/COP(2)/L.21	Medium-term strategy of the secretariat
ICCD/COP(2)/L.22	Annexes on arbitration and conciliation procedures
ICCD/COP(2)/L.23	Regional cooperation between countries of eastern and central Europe
ICCD/COP(2)/L.24	Outstanding rules of procedure
ICCD/COP(2)/L.25	Implementation of the Convention
ICCD/COP(2)/L.26	Programme of work of the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/COP(2)/L.27	Date and venue of the third session of the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/COP(2)/L.28	Adjustment to the Convention budget and programme for 1999
ICCD/COP(2)/L.29 and Corr.1	Report of the session: adoption of the report of the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/COP(2)/L.30	Administrative and support arrangements for the secretariat, including interim arrangements
ICCD/COP(2)/L.31	Agreement concerning the headquarters of the permanent secretariat of the Convention

ICCD/COP(2)/L.32	Regional cooperation between countries of eastern and central Europe
ICCD/COP(2)/L.33	Resolution of questions; annexes on arbitration and conciliation procedures
ICCD/COP(2)/L.34	Collaboration with other conventions
ICCD/COP(2)/L.35	Outstanding rules of procedure
ICCD/COP(2)/L.36	Programme of work for the Conference of the Parties
ICCD/COP(2)/L.37	Procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation
ICCD/COP(2)/L.38	Medium-term strategy of the secretariat
ICCD/COP(2)/L.39	Implementation of the Convention
ICCD/COP(2)/L.40	Report on the Round Table of Parliamentarians
ICCD/COP(2)/L.41	Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of Senegal
ICCD/COP(2)/L.42	Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure
ICCD/COP(2)/L.43	Global Mechanism
ICCD/COP(2)/L.44	Memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the International Fund for Agricultural Development regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism

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Convention to Combat Desertification

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES ON ITS SECOND SESSION, HELD IN DAKAR FROM 30 NOVEMBER TO 11 DECEMBER 1998

Addendum

PART TWO: ACTION TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AT ITS SECOND SESSION

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I. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES[1]

Decision 1/COP.2

Ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 4 of the Convention, related to the convening of ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties,

Bearing in mind that the Conference of the Parties should adopt the budget during its ordinary sessions,

1. *Decides* that the fifth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties shall take place in the year 2001, and that thereafter ordinary sessions shall be held every two years;

2. *Decides also* that the sixth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in the year 2003;

3. *Invites* the secretariat to make the necessary arrangements for the forthcoming ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with this decision and relevant provisions of the Convention.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] For decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, see document ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1.

Decision 2/COP.2

Programme of work for the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 2[7] of the Convention,

Recalling also its decisions 9/COP.1 on its work programme, 10/COP.1 on review of the implementation of the Convention and 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation,

1. *Decides* to include the following selected items in the agenda of its third session and, if necessary, its fourth session:

(a) Review of reports on implementation of affected African country Parties, including on the participatory process and on experiences gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes;

(b) Consideration of progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in Africa;

(c) Review of reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention;

(d) Review of information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention;

(e) Review of activities for the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and relevant international organizations, institutions and agencies;

(f) Consideration of procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions on implementation, in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward;

(g) Consideration of annexes containing arbitration and conciliation procedures, in accordance with article 28, paragraphs 2(a) and 6, of the Convention;

(h) Consideration of some specific conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee on Science and Technology relating to affected country Parties' experiences and constraints in the implementation of action programmes;

2. *Decides also* to include the following selected items in the agenda of its fourth session and, if necessary, its fifth session:

(a) Review of reports on implementation of affected country Parties, of regions other than Africa, including on the participatory process, and on experiences gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of national action programmes;

(b) Review of the report on progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes in regions other than Africa;

3. *Requests* the secretariat of the Convention to circulate in all official languages at least three months prior to the third session of the Conference of the Parties a provisional annotated agenda, and appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

Decision 3/COP.2

Administrative and support arrangements for the secretariat, including interim arrangements

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 3/COP.1 on the designation of a Convention secretariat and arrangements for its functioning, administrative and support arrangements, and 4/COP.1 on interim arrangements for the Conference of the Parties and for the Convention secretariat,

Recalling also United Nations General Assembly resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997 on implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Taking note of the secretariat report on institutional and interim arrangements for the Conference of the Parties and the Convention secretariat,[1]

1. *Accepts* the arrangements as outlined in the secretariat report referred to in the preamble to this decision;

2. *Notes* with appreciation the appointment by the Secretary-General of the first head of the Convention secretariat in accordance with its decision 4/COP.1, paragraph 4;

3. *Calls on* the General Assembly, bearing in mind the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations and the large number of States, including those which are on the list of least developed countries, that are Parties to the Convention, to decide to finance from the regular programme budget of the United Nations the conference servicing costs arising from sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies for the duration of the institutional linkage approved by the General Assembly, including the fourth and fifth sessions of the Conference of the Parties and meetings of its subsidiary bodies in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2000-2001;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to transmit to the General Assembly the report and decisions of its second session;

5. *Reiterates* its appreciation to Governments, the United Nations system, multilateral financial institutions, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations that have supported the interim secretariat;

6. *Invites* the international community, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental institutions and the private sector to continue to support and cooperate with the Convention secretariat and requests the Executive Secretary to collaborate with those entities with a view to reaching understandings that specify the nature of the cooperation and support that each entity would provide.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/9.

Decision 4/COP.2

Agreement concerning the headquarters of the permanent secretariat of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 5/COP.1 of 10 October 1997, by which it accepted the offer of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to host the secretariat of the Convention,

Also recalling that the headquarters agreement was signed on 18 August 1998 and that an exchange of notes forming part of the agreement took place on the same day,

Bearing in mind the note by the secretariat on the headquarters agreement[1] and the statement made by the delegation of Germany on the successful conclusion of the headquarters agreement and its speedy entry into operation,

Noting that the Federal Republic of Germany has issued an ordinance, which became effective on 23 October 1998, implementing major parts of the headquarters agreement under German law, and further noting that article 3, paragraph 3, article 4 and article 5 of the headquarters agreement require ratification by the Federal Republic of Germany,

Noting with satisfaction that the said ratification is nearing completion,

Approves the agreement signed in Bonn on 18 August 1998 concerning the headquarters of the Convention secretariat, subject to its ratification by the Federal Republic of Germany and requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on this matter if necessary.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/8 and Corr.1 and Add.1-2.

Decision 5/COP.2

Procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraphs 2(a) and (b), article 23, paragraph 2(c), and article 26 of the Convention,

Reaffirming decision 11/COP.1 on procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation,

Having considered the review of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, including support to regional action programmes,[1]

1. *Recalls* that, at its third session, in 1999, it shall examine the reports of affected African country Parties and, at its fourth session, in 2000, the reports of affected country Parties in other regions;

2. *Recalls also* that developed country Parties shall report, at each session, on measures taken to assist action programmes of those affected developing country Parties reporting for the session, and that relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, are invited to do likewise;

3. *Recalls further* that reports are to be submitted in conformity with the procedures for the communication of information and review of implementation contained in decision 11/COP.1;

4. *Calls upon* Governments, the United Nations system and all other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to provide technical and financial support with a view to assisting affected African country Parties for the compilation and communication of information to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its third session, in 1999, for consideration, as well as identifying the technical and financial needs associated with action programmes;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on its activities related to paragraph 24 of the procedures contained in decision 11/COP.1 and article 23, paragraph 2(c), of the Convention.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/5.

Decision 6/COP.2

I. Adjustment to the Convention budget and programme for 1999

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 6/COP.1, whereby, *inter alia*, it approved a core budget in the amount of US$ 6,100,000 for 1999 and requested the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties, at its second session, any proposed adjustments to the budget for 1999,

Further recalling its decision 7/COP.1, whereby, *inter alia*, it took note of the estimated requirements for 1999 for the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, submitted by the Executive Secretary, and requested him to report thereon to the second and third sessions of the Conference of the Parties and to propose any related adjustments that might be required for 1999,

Having considered the report on adjustments to the Convention budget for 1999 submitted by the Executive Secretary[1],

A. The core budget

1. *Approves* the revised core budget of the Convention for 1999, as the second year of the biennium 1998-1999, amounting to US$ 6,100,000, for the following purposes, not including conference servicing costs:

		1999 expenditures (thousands of US$)
I.	Programmes administered by the secretariat of the Convention	
	Policy-making organs	42.0
	Executive direction and management	625.0
	Substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies	542.0
	Facilitation of implementation and coordination	1 384.0
	External relations and public information	388.0
	Global Mechanism	1 003.0
	Administration and systems support	1 000.5
	Administrative overhead charges	648.0
	Subtotal	5 632.5
II.	Working capital reserve	467.5
	Total	6 100.0

2. *Takes note* of the estimate of contribution to offset the expenditures approved in paragraph 1 above, as follows:

		1999 contribution (thousands of US$)
Voluntary contribution from the Government of Germany to the secretariat in addition to its existing commitments as a Party to the Convention	Total	546.4

[1] ICCD/COP(2)/2.

3. *Decides* that the Executive Secretary, for the purpose of the 1999 budget, shall make savings equivalent to the special annual contribution of the Government of Germany to finance Convention events organized by the secretariat (see paragraph 7 below), in calculating the contributions of Parties to the 1999 budget in a manner that the amount to be shared among the Parties shall total US$ 4,956,800 as the Parties have already budgeted for 1999;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue negotiations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the issue of an allotment of overhead for the financing of additional posts or activities in the administrative area of the secretariat;

5. *Welcomes* General Assembly resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997, whereby the General Assembly decided to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1998-1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for that biennium;

6. *Reiterates* its appreciation to the Government of Germany for its generous contributions of DM 1 million to the secretariat, in addition to its commitments as a Party, and of a further DM 1,000,000 for Convention events organized by the secretariat;

7. *Approves* the creation of a new trust fund for the special annual contribution of DM 1 million from the Government of Germany to finance Convention events organized by the secretariat, made in accordance with the bilateral arrangements between the Government of Germany and the Convention secretariat, and requests the Executive Secretary to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish the new trust fund, to be managed by the Executive Secretary;

8. *Approves* the staffing table for the secretariat under the 1999 core budget as follows:

		1999 posts
I.	Professional category and above	
	ASG	1
	D-2	-
	D-1	1
	P-5	6
	P-4	4
	P-3	6
	P-2	3
	Subtotal	21
II.	General Service category	11
	TOTAL	32

9. *Confirms* its authorization to the Executive Secretary to make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines set out in part I, paragraph 1, above, up to an aggregate limit of 15 per cent of the total estimated expenditure for a given year for those appropriation lines, provided that in the process no appropriation line is reduced by more than 25 per cent;

10. *Reaffirms* that the working capital reserve maintained within the General Fund shall be set at a level of 8.3 per cent of core budget expenditure, including overhead charges;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on the financial performance of the Convention budget for 1999;

12. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its third session a proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, which should include a contingency provision for conference servicing costs in the event that the General Assembly of the United Nations decides not to provide resources for these activities in the regular United Nations budget for that biennium;

B. Amendment to the Financial Rules

13. *Amends* paragraph 12 (a) of the Financial Rules to read as follows:

"(a) Contributions made each year by Parties on the basis of an indicative scale adopted by consensus by the Conference of the Parties, and based on such a scale of assessments of the United Nations as may be adopted from time to time by the General Assembly of the United Nations;"

C. Indicative scale of contributions

14. *Adopts* the attached indicative scale of contributions to the General Fund of the Convention for 1999, adjusted so as to ensure that no Party contributes less than 0.001 per cent of the total, that no one contribution exceeds 25 per cent of the total and that no contribution from a least developed country exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total;

15. *Recalls* that, in accordance with paragraph 14 of the Financial Rules of the Convention, contributions for 1999 are expected on or before 1 January 1999 and that each Party should, as far in advance as possible of that date, inform the Executive Secretary of the contribution it intends to make and the projected timing of that contribution;

16. *Invites* Parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full the contributions required to finance expenditures approved under part A, paragraph 1 above, as offset by the estimated contribution noted in paragraph 2.

II. The Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note* of the estimated requirements submitted by the Executive Secretary;

2. *Invites* Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to the Supplementary Fund established pursuant to paragraph 9 of the Financial Rules, in order to:

(a) Support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the Conference of Parties;

(b) Facilitate assistance to developing country Parties in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2(c), and article 26, paragraph 7 of the Convention, as well as the relevant articles of the regional implementation annexes;

(c) Advance other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention;

3. *Further invites* Parties, as well as Governments of States not Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to the Special Fund established in accordance with paragraph 10 of the Financial Rules, in order to support the participation of developing, and in particular, least developed country Parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on the status of the Trust Funds established under the Financial Rules.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

ANNEX

INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND (CORE BUDGET) OF THE CONVENTION FOR 1999 (AS OF 11 DECEMBER 1998)

Party to the CCD[1]	United Nations scale (1999) (%)	Indicative scale[2] (%)	Estimated 1999 contribution (US$)
1. Afghanistan*	0.003	0.004	
2. Algeria	0.094	0.137	
3. Angola*	0.010	0.010	
4. Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.003	
5. Argentina	1.024	1.487	
6. Armenia	0.011	0.016	
7. Austria	0.941	1.367	
8. Azerbaijan	0.022	0.032	
9. Bahrain	0.017	0.024	
10. Bangladesh*	0.010	0.010	
11. Barbados	0.008	0.012	
12. Belgium	1.103	1.602	
13. Belize	0.001	0.001	
14. Benin*	0.002	0.003	
15. Bolivia	0.007	0.011	
16. Botswana	0.010	0.015	
17. Brazil	1.470	2.135	
18. Burkina Faso*	0.002	0.003	
19. Burundi*	0.001	0.001	
20. Cambodia*	0.001	0.001	
21. Cameroon	0.013	0.019	
22. Canada	2.754	4.000	
23. Cape Verde*	0.002	0.003	
24. Central African Republic*	0.001	0.001	
25. Chad*	0.001	0.001	
26. Chile	0.131	0.190	
27. China	0.973	1.414	
28. Comoros*	0.001	0.001	
29. Cook Islands	0.001	0.001	
30. Costa Rica	0.010	0.023	
31. Côte d'Ivoire	0.009	0.013	
32. Cuba	0.026	0.038	
33. Democratic Republic of the Congo*	0.007	0.010	
34. Denmark	0.691	1.003	
35. Djibouti*	0.001	0.001	
36. Dominica	0.001	0.001	
37. Dominican Republic	0.015	0.022	
38. Ecuador	0.020	0.029	
39. Egypt	0.065	0.095	
40. El Salvador	0.012	0.018	
41. Equatorial Guinea*	0.001	0.001	
42. Eritrea*	0.001	0.001	
43. Ethiopia*	0.006	0.008	
44. European Community	2.500	2.500	
45. Fiji	0.004	0.006	

INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND (CORE BUDGET) OF THE CONVENTION FOR 1999 (AS OF 11 DECEMBER 1998)

Party to the CCD[1]	United Nations scale (1999) (%)	Indicative scale (%)[2]	Estimated 1999 contribution (US$)
46. Finland	0.542	0.788	
47. France	6.540	9.500	
48. Gabon	0.015	0.022	
49. Gambia*	0.001	0.001	
50. Germany	9.808	14.247	
51. Ghana	0.007	0.011	
52. Greece	0.351	0.510	
53. Grenada	0.001	0.001	
54. Guatemala	0.018	0.026	
55. Guinea*	0.003	0.004	
56. Guinea-Bissau*	0.001	0.001	
57. Guyana	0.001	0.001	
58. Haiti*	0.002	0.003	
59. Honduras	0.003	0.004	
60. Iceland	0.032	0.046	
61. India	0.299	0.434	
62. Indonesia	0.184	0.267	
63. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.193	0.281	
64. Ireland	0.224	0.325	
65. Israel	0.345	0.501	
66. Italy	5.432	7.890	
67. Jamaica	0.006	0.008	
68. Japan	19.984	25.000	
69. Jordan	0.006	0.008	
70. Kazakhstan	0.066	0.096	
71. Kenya	0.007	0.011	
72. Kiribati	0.001	0.001	
73. Kuwait	0.134	0.195	
74. Kyrgyzstan	0.008	0.012	
75. Lao People's Democratic Republic*	0.001	0.001	
76. Lebanon	0.016	0.023	
77. Lesotho*	0.002	0.003	
78. Liberia*	0.002	0.003	
79. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.132	0.191	
80. Luxembourg	0.068	0.099	
81. Madagascar*	0.003	0.004	
82. Malawi*	0.002	0.003	
83. Malaysia	0.180	0.262	
84. Mali*	0.002	0.003	
85. Malta	0.014	0.020	
86. Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001	
87. Mauritania*	0.001	0.001	
88. Mauritius	0.009	0.013	
89. Mexico	0.980	1.423	
90. Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001	

INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND (CORE BUDGET) OF THE CONVENTION FOR 1999 (AS OF 11 DECEMBER 1998)

Party to the CCD[1]	United Nations scale (1999) (%)	Indicative scale (%)[2]	Estimated 1999 contribution (US$)
91. Mongolia	0.002	0.003	
92. Morocco	0.041	0.060	
93. Mozambique*	0.001	0.001	
94. Myanmar*	0.008	0.010	
95. Namibia	0.007	0.011	
96. Nepal*	0.004	0.006	
97. Netherlands	1.631	2.370	
98. Nicaragua	0.001	0.001	
99. Niger*	0.002	0.003	
100. Nigeria	0.040	0.058	
101. Niue	0.001	0.001	
102. Norway	0.610	0.886	
103. Oman	0.051	0.074	
104. Pakistan	0.059	0.085	
105. Panama	0.013	0.019	
106. Paraguay	0.014	0.020	
107. Peru	0.095	0.138	
108. Portugal	0.417	0.606	
109. Romania	0.067	0.098	
110. Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.001	
111. Saint Lucia	0.001	0.001	
112. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	
113. Samoa	0.001	0.001	
114. Sao Tome and Principe*	0.001	0.001	
115. Saudi Arabia	0.569	0.827	
116. Senegal	0.006	0.008	
117. Seychelles	0.002	0.003	
118. Sierra Leone*	0.001	0.001	
119. South Africa	0.366	0.531	
120. Spain	2.589	3.761	
121. Sudan*	0.007	0.010	
122. Swaziland	0.002	0.003	
123. Sweden	1.084	1.574	
124. Switzerland	1.215	1.765	
125. Syrian Arab Republic	0.064	0.093	
126. Tajikistan	0.005	0.007	
127. Togo*	0.001	0.001	
128. Tunisia	0.028	0.041	
129. Turkey	0.440	0.639	
130. Turkmenistan	0.008	0.012	
131. Uganda*	0.004	0.006	

INDICATIVE SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND (CORE BUDGET) OF THE CONVENTION FOR 1999 (AS OF 11 DECEMBER 1998)			
Party to the CCD[1]	United Nations scale (1999) (%)	Indicative scale (%)[2]	Estimated 1999 contribution (US$)
132. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5.090	7.394	
133. United Republic of Tanzania*	0.003	0.004	
134. Uzbekistan	0.037	0.054	
135. Venezuela	0.176	0.256	
136. Viet Nam	0.007	0.011	
137. Yemen*	0.010	0.010	
138. Zambia*	0.002	0.003	
139. Zimbabwe	0.009	0.013	
TOTAL	72.413	100.000	4 956 800

* Least developed countries.

[1] Actual Parties include States and regional economic integration organizations that are Parties to the Convention as of 11 December 1998.

[2] In accordance with paragraph 12(a) of the Financial Rules, indicative rates of contribution are based on the United Nations scale of assessments, as currently contained in General Assembly resolution A/RES/52/215 of 20 January 1998, adjusted to obtain a total of 100 per cent and to ensure that no Party contributes less than 0.001 per cent of the total, that no one contribution exceeds 25 per cent of the total and that no contribution from a least developed Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total.

Decision 7/COP.2

Medium-term strategy of the secretariat

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Convention and decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties regarding the role and functions of the Convention secretariat,

Having considered the medium-term strategy of the secretariat[1],

1. *Decides* to have further consideration of the issue related to the medium-term strategy of the secretariat in the context of the implementation of the Convention and programme proposals;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to elaborate a new document on the medium-term strategy of the secretariat based on comments, suggestions and proposals made during the second session of the Conference of the Parties, as well as on written submissions by the Parties no later than 30 April 1999, and to submit that document and a compendium to the Conference of the Parties for consideration.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/6.

Decision 8/COP.2

Collaboration with other conventions

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of article 8 of the Convention, on the relationship with other conventions, and article 22, paragraph 2(i), on the promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant international bodies and conventions,

Recalling also article 23, paragraph 2(d), on the coordination by the secretariat of its activities with the secretariats of other relevant international bodies and conventions,

Bearing in mind its decision 9/COP.1, paragraph 3(a), and its decision 13/COP.1, paragraph 2, on collaboration and coordination with other international bodies and conventions, and decision 14/COP.1 on relations with the Global Environment Facility,

Taking note of the report by the secretariat on collaboration and synergies among Rio conventions for the implementation of the Convention[1],

1. *Requests* the secretariat to take steps to implement that report in consultation with other relevant secretariats, and to develop, as appropriate, a memorandum of understanding to define their collaboration and cooperation;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, in preparing documents for the Conference of the Parties, to seek, as appropriate, the views of and inputs from relevant convention secretariats, as well as from relevant international organizations, agencies and institutions;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session on his activities in fulfilling this decision, bearing in mind the relevant resolutions and/or decisions of the United Nations General Assembly.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/7.

Decision 9/COP.2

Regional implementation annexes and interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 12/COP.1 on regional implementation annexes,

Recalling also article 11 of the Convention,

Taking note of the review by the Convention secretariat of the implementation of the Convention and of its institutional arrangements, including support to regional action programmes[1],

1. *Welcomes* agreements reached by country Parties of the regional implementation annexes to launch regional action programmes;

2. *Urges* Parties in regions which have not yet done so to accelerate the process of adoption and implementation of regional action programmes as well as the launching of activities and projects in cross-border areas identified or to be identified in each subregional or regional action programme;

3. *Encourages* affected developing country Parties to pursue all necessary efforts for the formulation and implementation of activities and projects initiated in the framework of priority areas for interregional cooperation on the implementation of the Convention;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate assistance, in accordance with article 23 (2) of the Convention, for the effective and efficient implementation of regional action programmes;

5. *Calls upon* the international community, in particular developed countries, the United Nations system, including multilateral financial institutions, regional economic integration organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to support the efforts of affected developing country Parties in the processes of elaboration and implementation of subregional and regional action programmes and interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation to combat desertification, by providing them with financial resources and other forms of assistance.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/5.

Decision 10/COP.2

Review of the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 10/COP.1 on review of the implementation of the Convention,

Noting that, in spite of efforts made to address the issue at its second session, it was recognized that more time was needed for its consideration,

1. *Invites* Parties to make submissions in writing to the Convention secretariat in anticipation of consideration of this decision, to be received by the secretariat no later than 30 April 1999;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to compile submissions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

3. *Also requests* the secretariat to include the consideration of decision 10/COP.1 on the agenda for its third session;

4. *Decides* to transmit to its third session the draft decision contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/L.9, proposed by Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, for consideration in place of document A/AC.241/L.42, referred to in decision 10/COP.1, paragraph 2.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

Decision 11/COP.2

Regional cooperation between countries of eastern and central Europe

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the statement made by the President of the Conference of the Parties at its first session[1], noting the wish of some eastern and central European countries to establish an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention,

Also recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997, paragraph 6, inviting the Conference of the Parties to facilitate the elaboration of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for the countries of the eastern and central European region,

Having taken note of the wish of the concerned countries to become Parties to the Convention by completing the process of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession,

1. *Urges* observer countries from eastern and central Europe to take appropriate actions to become parties to the Convention through the early completion of the process of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention, thereby facilitating adoption of the additional regional implementation annex to the Convention by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session;

2. *Takes note* of the progress made through the informal consultations aimed at producing a draft for an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention;

3. *Invites* countries of eastern and central Europe to pursue consultations with a view to producing a draft additional regional implementation annex to the Convention;

4. *Invites also* the countries of eastern and central Europe to submit a draft additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to support the process under the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(1)/11, paragraph 53.

Decision 12/COP.2

Work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 16/COP.1 on the work programme of the Committee on Science and Technology,

1. *Decides* that the priority issue to be addressed in depth by the Committee on Science and Technology at its third session shall be early-warning systems in its broadest sense;

2. *Also decides* that the agenda for the third session of the Committee shall include the other topics on the agenda for the second session of the Committee;

3. *Requests* the Convention secretariat to facilitate the convening of at least one inter-sessional bureau meeting of the Committee within existing resources for the review of decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties and other related matters regarding the work of the Committee, especially the planning and organization of the next session of the Committee;

4. *Invites* Parties to submit contributions in writing not exceeding 10 pages to the Convention secretariat no later than 30 June 1999, referring to the priority issues to be addressed at the third session of the Committee, reporting on already existing experiences of early-warning systems as well as on specialized institutions acting in this field to facilitate the preparation of the third session.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

Decision 13/COP.2

Roster of independent experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Having reviewed the proposed roster of independent experts[1] prepared by the secretariat of the Convention in accordance with decision 19/COP.1 based on submissions from Parties through diplomatic channels,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the secretariat to ensure that the roster is available in electronic form as well as through the regular channels of the United Nations system,

1. *Invites* Parties to supplement their submissions to the secretariat for inclusion in the roster to ensure that under-represented areas are addressed, in particular by:

(a) Making the roster more balanced in terms of gender equity;

(b) Ensuring better representation of relevant disciplines, particularly in the areas of anthropology and sociology, health sciences, legislation, microbiology and trade;

(c) Increasing representation of experts from international and non-governmental organizations;

2. *Also invites* Parties which have not yet submitted nominations of experts for the roster including full addresses to do so;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to ensure that an updated roster is made available in electronic form as appropriate;

4. *Further requests* the secretariat to distribute a paper copy of the roster to Parties on an annual basis.

5th Plenary
7 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/11 and Add.1.

Decision 14/COP.2

Traditional knowledge

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the synopsis of reports on traditional knowledge compiled by the secretariat[1],

1. *Requests* the secretariat to complete its ongoing work on compiling the most important and widely applied traditional knowledge on a subregional and regional basis and on a national scale where appropriate, and make a synthesis of this work available to the Committee on Science and Technology at its third session;

2. *Requests* the secretariat:

(a) To explore ways and means of linking the work of the Committee on traditional knowledge with similar work being undertaken under other related conventions and to report to the Committee thereon at its third session; and

(b) To prepare a report on traditional knowledge in dryland ecosystems drawing on the discussions that took place at the second session of the Committee and the synthesis referred to in paragraph 1 above in time for its presentation to the next meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

3. *Decides* to appoint an ad hoc panel composed of ten experts with terms of reference as follows:

(a) Drawing upon the synthesis referred to in paragraph 1 above, to identify successful experiences and conclusions relating to:

(i) Threats and other constraints, including socio-economic impacts, confronting such traditional knowledge and practices;

(ii) Strategies for integrating traditional and local knowledge, know-how and practices with modern knowledge based on specific case histories; and

(iii) Mechanisms for promoting and exchanging successful approaches;

(b) To report accordingly to the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to ensure that issues relating to linking information networks on traditional and local knowledge, know-how and practices to the national action programmes are addressed under the survey and evaluation of networks.

10th Plenary
10 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/CST/5.

Decision 15/COP.2

Other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting with appreciation the report of the secretariat of the Convention on other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology[1],

1. *Invites* Governments to update the information contained in the report by submitting to the secretariat in writing the names of and relevant information on additional organizations, whether national, subregional, regional or international by 30 May 1999;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to update the information on potential areas of cooperation between the Convention and the other conventions and organizations specified in the annex to the document[1/] referred to in the preamble to this decision.

5th Plenary
7 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/CST/4.

Decision 16/COP.2

Benchmarks and indicators

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 22/COP.1, requesting Governments to initiate testing of the implementation indicators identified in document A/AC.241/Inf.4 as revised by document ICCD/COP(1)/CST/3/Add.1, and to report on the utility of such implementation indicators in national reporting to the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

Noting also the consensus on the report of the ad hoc panel that acted as a steering committee to the open-ended informal consultative process on benchmarks and indicators[1],

1. *Requests* the Conference of the Parties to endorse the methodological framework for impact indicators proposed by the panel[1], pending their testing and validation;

2. *Invites* Governments to initiate testing of the impact indicators and the practicality of using those indicators in national reporting to the third session of the Conference of the Parties for the affected African country Parties, and the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties for the affected country Parties of the other regions;

3. *Encourages* the Parties, through the regional groups of the Convention annexes, to identify countries that are sufficiently representative of their regions and subregions, to present their experience in the application of impact indicators to the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties in order to permit evaluation and refinement of the methodology;

4. *Encourages also* Parties and other countries in a position to provide assistance, as well as international organizations, to mobilize technical and financial support for the affected country Parties, and to initiate the testing of impact indicators, particularly at the national level.

5th Plenary
7 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3/Add.1.

Decision 17/COP.2

Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the requirements of article 25 of the Convention,

Bearing in mind its decision 23/COP.1,

Noting the necessary contractual arrangements entered into by the head of the secretariat with the United Nations Environment Programme on behalf of the Conference of the Parties for the completion of the work on the survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies,

Noting also the efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme in its work on the survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies,

1. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to expedite this process in conformity with the mandate given to it by the Conference of the Parties at its first session, and to submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

2. *Further requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to submit a methodology for carrying out the second and third phases of the survey and evaluation for consideration by the Committee on Science and Technology at its third session in conformity with decision 23/COP.1, annex.

5th Plenary
7 December 1998

Decision 18/COP.2

Global Mechanism

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 24/COP.1 and 25/COP.1 on the organization to house the Global Mechanism and agreement on its modalities, and on collaborative institutional arrangements in support of the Global Mechanism, respectively,

Taking note of the reports of the secretariat[1] and of the International Fund for Agricultural Development[2] as the organization housing the Global Mechanism and the joint report[3] of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank and of the draft memorandum of understanding with the International Fund for Agricultural Development as the organization housing the International Fund for Agricultural Development/Global Mechanism[4],

Having considered the report of the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism[2/] and the report of the current chair of the Facilitation Committee[3/],

1. *Notes with concern* that the Global Mechanism did not begin operating on 1 January 1998, as indicated by the Conference of the Parties at its first session in its decision 24/COP.1;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the role played by the United Nations Development Programme in identifying and selecting the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism in consultation with, and his appointment by, the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development;

3. *Also notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the International Fund for Agricultural Development to establish the framework for the separate identity of the Global Mechanism within the International Fund for Agricultural Development as an organic part of the structure of the Fund, and looks forward to a prompt starting of its activities, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

4. *Further notes with appreciation* the role of the Facilitation Committee with its expanded membership in supporting the work of the Global Mechanism and looks forward to the Committee's continued support;

5. *Invites* the International Fund for Agricultural Development to pursue modalities of collaboration between itself and the community of non-governmental organizations, as well as collaboration with other interested organizations, including the private sector, and to submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/4.

[2] ICCD/COP(2)/CRP.1.

[3] ICCD/COP(2)/CRP.2.

[4] ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1.

6. *Requests* the Global Mechanism to establish an ongoing process for consultation and collaboration with non-governmental organizations as well as with the private sector, and to submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its third session for consideration and to take appropriate actions;

7. *Requests also* the Global Mechanism and the Convention secretariat to cooperate in order to avoid duplication and to enhance the effectiveness of the Convention implementation in accordance with their respective roles as contained in the draft memorandum of understanding;

8. *Invites* the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and, as appropriate, the other members of the Facilitation Committee to nominate focal points for the purpose of liaison with the Global Mechanism;

9. *Invites* relevant institutions, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Food Programme, intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations and regional development banks, as well as all other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to actively support the activities of the Global Mechanism;

10. *Takes note with appreciation* of the financial support already provided on a voluntary basis by some country Parties, and reiterates its appeal to Governments, all interested organizations and the private sector to make promptly further voluntary contributions to support the activities and, as appropriate, in addition to the core budget, to support the functioning of the Global Mechanism;

11. *Takes note* of the first draft of an operational strategy and requests the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to complete the development of an operational strategy, so as to ensure full consideration of all its main functions including mobilizing and channelling of financial resources as contained in its decision 24/COP.1;

12. *Decides* to undertake, at its third session, in accordance with article 21, paragraph 7, of the Convention, the first review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism and, on the basis of this review, consider and take appropriate action.

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11 December 1998

Decision 19/COP.2

Memorandum of understanding
between the Conference of the Parties to
the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and
the International Fund for Agricultural Development
regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the
Global Mechanism

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the International Fund for Agricultural Development regarding the modalities and administrative operations of the Global Mechanism[1], jointly prepared by the secretariat of the Convention and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and requests the secretariat of the Convention to continue consultations on the text of the draft memorandum of understanding, in order to ensure that comments by Parties are taken into account, and to submit a revised draft of the memorandum of understanding for consideration and decision by the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

2. *Decides* to transmit to its third session the draft decision ICCD/COP(2)/L.19 submitted by Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China;

3. *Calls upon* all those to whom the draft memorandum of understanding is addressed to act, pending its entry into operation, as if it were already in effect.

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11 December 1998

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[1] ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1, annex.

Decision 20/COP.2

Consideration of rules 22 and 31 of the rules of procedure

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Decides* to replace paragraph 1 of rule 22 with the following:

"At the commencement of the first meeting of each ordinary session, a President, nine Vice-Presidents and the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session in a manner that every geographical region shall be represented by at least two members. They shall serve as the Bureau of the session. One of the Vice-Presidents shall act as Rapporteur. In appointing the Bureau, due regard shall be paid to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, while not neglecting affected country Parties in other regions. The offices of President and Rapporteur shall normally be subject to rotation among the regional groups recognized by the practice of the United Nations."

2. *Decides also* to replace rule 31 with the following:

"The Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. Unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise, the Chairperson of any other subsidiary body shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties. Each subsidiary body shall elect its own four Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur. The Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons of such subsidiary bodies shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, while not neglecting affected country Parties in other regions and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms."

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11 December 1998

Decision 21/COP.2

Consideration of rule 47 of the rules of procedure

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Decides* to replace the marginal note, the title and paragraph 1 of rule 47 of the rules of procedure with the following:

"*Majority required*

Rule 47

1. [The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by [a simple majority vote] [a two-thirds majority vote] of the Parties present and voting, [except for decisions taken under article 21 [and article 22, paragraph 2(g)] of the Convention which shall be agreed upon by consensus, or] [unless otherwise provided by

(a) The Convention;

(b) The financial rules referred to in article 22, paragraph 2(e) of the Convention; or

(c) The present rules of procedure.]]"

2. *Requests* the secretariat to include consideration of this outstanding rule of procedure on the agenda of its third session.

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11 December 1998

Decision 22/COP.2

Resolution of questions:
annexes on arbitration and conciliation procedures

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions of article 27 of the Convention, which states that the Conference of the Parties shall consider and adopt procedures and institutional mechanisms for the resolution of questions that may arise with regard to the implementation of the Convention,

Recalling also article 28, paragraph 2(a), of the Convention, which refers to arbitration procedures to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties in an annex as soon as practicable,

Recalling further article 28, paragraph 6, of the Convention, which refers to conciliation procedures to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties in an annex as soon as practicable,

Bearing in mind that the Conference of the Parties, at its first session, decided[1] to include consideration of the issues referred to in the foregoing paragraphs as selected items on the agenda for its second session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the secretariat on such issues[1/];

2. *Decides* to consider the issue further at the third session of the Conference of the Parties in the light of the progress of the negotiations on the same issues in other relevant environmental conventions with a view to deciding how to take this matter forward;

3. *Decides also* to consider at the third session of the Conference of the Parties the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc group to examine and make recommendations on the issues of arbitration and conciliation procedures, taking into account the document prepared by the secretariat[2].

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[1] Decision 9/COP.1.

[2] ICCD/COP(2)/10.

Decision 23/COP.2

Report on the Round Table of Parliamentarians

The Conference of the Parties,

Having heard the presentation of the Declaration by Members of Parliament regarding the process of implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, made by the President of the National Assembly of Senegal reporting on the outcome of the Round Table of Parliamentarians, which took place in Dakar on 7 December 1998 and which saw the participation of thirty-five Parliamentarians from twenty-one countries,

1. *Takes note*, with appreciation, of the Declaration;

2. *Decides* to include the Declaration as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its second session.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

Decision 24/COP.2

Date and venue of the third session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

1. *Accepts* with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of Brazil to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

2. *Decides* that the third session of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in Recife, Brazil, from 15 November to 26 November 1999;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consult with the Government of Brazil with a view to entering into satisfactory arrangements for that Government to host the Conference in Recife and to meet the related costs.

10th Plenary
10 December 1998

Decision 25/COP.2

Credentials of representatives of Parties
to the second session of the Conference of the Parties
to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification[1]

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the report[2] on credentials of the Bureau of the second session of the Conference of the Parties and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report on credentials submitted by the Bureau of the second session of the Conference of the Parties.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

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[1] Editor's note: see also part I of this report and ICCD/COP(2)/13/Rev.1.

[2] ICCD/COP(2)/13/Rev.1.

II. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Resolution 1/COP.2

Solidarity with Central America

The Conference of the Parties,

Concerned at the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch that led to the tremendous loss of thousands of lives, of infrastructure and environmental degradation in Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize, Costa Rica and Panama,

Aware of the high vulnerability of Central American and Caribbean countries to such climatic phenomena,

Concerned that such natural phenomena worsen soil degradation, especially in the Central American and Caribbean subregions, which are the most vulnerable to these effects,

Recognizing that these unfortunate events give special urgency to our deliberations in this conference and oblige us to look for new opportunities for common cooperation actions,

1. *Expresses* its strongest solidarity and deep condolences to the people and Governments of Central America after this tragic event;

2. *Invites* the international community, including intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to contribute to the reconstruction and support with humanitarian assistance and other cooperative actions;

3. *Urges* all Governments, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and society in general, to offer them technical and financial assistance for the effective execution of the national action plans of the affected countries and subregional programmes for combating desertification;

4. *Invites* support for the Central American initiatives emanating from the Presidential Summit convened in San Salvador, El Salvador, in the aftermath of the catastrophes which call for a sustainable reconstruction plan for Central America.

12th Plenary
11 December 1998

Resolution 2/COP.2

Vote of thanks to the people and Government of Senegal

The Conference of the Parties,

Having met for its second regular session in Dakar, Senegal, from 30 November to 11 December 1998, at the invitation of the Government of Senegal,

1. *Expresses* its gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Senegal for the efforts and sacrifices made to ensure that the Conference took place in Dakar and for having made available to it facilities, personnel and services of excellent quality;

2. *Requests* the Government of Senegal to transmit to the city of Dakar and the entire people of Senegal the thanks of the Parties to the Convention and Observers for the warm welcome and African hospitality offered to all the participants;

3. *Further requests* the President of the Conference of the Parties, the Minister for the Environment and Protection of Nature of Senegal, to transmit to the President of the Republic of Senegal, His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, the thanks of the participants for having opened the proceedings in person, for his great interest in the problems connected with environment and development and for his personal commitment to the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.

12th Plenary
12 December 1998